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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE

OUR FOREST PROBLEM

THE forest problem in the United States is not being solved. It is so serious that it deserves the attention of all right-minded citizens. If you wish to inform yourself on what is the trouble and what may be done about it, send to the Forest Service of the United States Department of Agriculture for some of its publications.

By signing your name and address and mailing the inclosed postal card, which requires no stamp, you can obtain any or all of the publications named below.

A NATIONAL LUMBER AND FOREST POLICY, **By Henry S. Graves, 14 pages.**

“The policies of the Government and the States during the next few years in matters relating to forests and lumber will be of far-reaching importance.”

“The fundamental economic situation that has heretofore kept the lumber industry in a state of unstable equilibrium still exists. Labor problems, in considerable part due to the unsound industrial situation, loom up with no permanent adjustment in sight. The dissipation of our forests goes on with no let-up.”

“Exhaustion of local forest supplies, the closing of industries dependent on them, the embarrassment for supplies of the pulp mills and other consumers using special classes of forest products, the generally mounting prices to consumers, are other factors which are calling sharp attention to the effect of forest destruction, and are causing increasing public uneasiness.”

"Forest depletion is injurious long before the last tree is cut, and long before all but the last center of production is exhausted."

"What is needed is some strengthening influence that would make possible the husbanding of the resource and its conservative use, as the public would use it if it had retained control over it, and at the same time provide for the continued productiveness of the land."

These are excerpts from A National Lumber and Forest Policy, in which the Chief of the Forest Service briefly reviews the evils, industrial and public, of the existing situation and outlines a program of action for their relief.

PRIVATE FORESTRY, By Henry S. Graves, 11 pages.

Illustrative of the subject matter of "Private Forestry" are the following quotations from it:

"The emphasis placed on the public forests in recent years has tended to throw into the background the problems of our private forests."

"Less than 2 per cent of the sawmills of the country are operating on public forests."

"Leaders of the southern pine manufacturers state that the bulk of the original supplies of yellow pine in the South will be exhausted in 10 years and that within the next 5 to 7 years more than 3,000 manufacturing plants will go out of existence."

"Already paper manufacturers are embarrassed for supplies."

"Sometimes forests are wiped out by a great conflagration, like that in Minnesota last fall that killed several hundred people and destroyed many million dollars' worth of property. Generally the process is slower and less spectacular, but the consequences are just as serious."

"Hundreds of communities are suffering because the resource supporting their chief industry has been exhausted. Sawmills and woodworking establishments close, subsidiary interests can no longer exist, the population moves away, farms are abandoned, roads and

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other public improvements deteriorate, and whole townships and even counties are impoverished."

"A few individuals may have realized handsomely from the speculative enterprise. The community has been gutted of its principal capital."

"This is not an occasional occurrence. It is the history of millions of acres of land unproductive and now an economic desert."

"The States should adopt a policy of taxing forests that would encourage rather than hinder the practice of forestry."

"I do not concur in the proposals that have been made for Federal legislation relative to agreements in restraint of trade, but I believe that public participation is necessary to meet the difficulties."

"We have been discussing these problems for many years, but we have made little progress in securing the right handling of private lands."

"I urge that those interested in the forest problem join in bringing about some definite and conclusive action."

SOME PUBLIC AND ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF THE LUMBER INDUSTRY, By William B. Greeley, 100 pages.

"The main problem of the lumber industry is a forest problem."

"Beginning as a widespread industry of small units, like farming, lumber manufacture has run more and more to groups of large mills which move from region to region and use up the forests of each in turn."

"The industry seems to have been built up beyond the needs of its market, for at least a third of its saws are idle."

"The very abundance of timber itself—taken into private ownership in too large quantities and capitalized too highly—weakens the lumber industry through its pressure upon the mills. It now seems clear that holding the great stumpage surplus of the West should have rested with the public. The present difficulties of western lumbermen thus are partly the outcome of too liberal a disposal of the public lands."

“Largely from unavoidable economic causes, lumbering and private land ownership have used up forest resources section by section without restoring them. Parts of the United States are suffering from timber shortage and depleted industries in consequence.”

“Progress toward an adequate forest policy rests mainly upon cooperation between the public and the lumberman. Little can be done by either single handed.”

These are extracts from Some Public and Economic Aspects of the Lumber Industry, by Assistant Forester William B. Greeley, of the United States Forest Service. The publication outlines the conditions which obtain in the lumber industry, discusses the returns on timber investments, in lumber manufacture, and in lumber distribution, analyzes the underlying causes of instability in the industry, and sets forth what the situation calls for.

The above publications are now available for free distribution.